

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE  
BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

FROM Rural Church Unit  
TO Dr. J. M. Somerndike  
RE:

DATE Feb. 14, 1939.

I sent the attached letter from David Crawford on to Dr. Randolph, and he requests me to turn it over to Dr. Somerndike, asking if Dr. Somerndike will kindly answer the young man; also that Dr. Randolph believes Mr. Crawford is a good man of unusual ability.

*Jean M. Speer*  
For H. S. Randolph



731 Ridge Ave.  
N.S., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Jan. 31, 1939

H.S. Randolfe  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir,

You asked me when you gave me this application to put in a special note to you in regards to the fact that I was the one who talked to you about going to Alaska. You also wished to know some of the things concerning my wife. You told me to think things over a little and then ask you any questions that came in my mind.

I might begin by saying that I didn't add the name of my uncle in the list of recommendations because I didn't know if you wanted relatives or not, but my uncle is working under your board. His name is Ed Black from Elizabeth W.Va. I know of the work of your board through him to a great extent.

My wife is just a high school graduate who took special work while their in the business course. She has worked for W.T. Grant Department Store since her graduation in 1931. She has always been actively connected with the young Peoples groups of both Erie and of Erie County in Pa. She has held offices in both. She is 25 having no physical disability as we know. In regards to recommendation for her Miss Grace Dean, Erie County Sabbath Association, Y.M.C.A., Erie, Pa. could give you information concerning her work.

The questions that have come into my mind are these. Since I want to go to Alaska when my Seminary course is finished, Would it not be a wise thing to go out this summer under the board to one of your stations wherever there is an opening? Would that be an asset for my finally getting to Alaska? I have some possibilities of getting a couple of churches near the seminary as stated supply for the rest of the year and summer and next winter. Would my accepting of these churches and thus help myself through seminary any way hinder my aim to go to Alaska? If there is an opening as you hinted to me this summer, what should be my attitude towards taking a regular supply job here? I want it understood that I want to do that thing which will help the most even to the sacrificing of much in order to get to Alaska in the end. Please advise.

Respectively yours,

David Crawford



Send to  
H.S. Randolph  
456 7th Ave  
N.Y. City -

A P P L I C A T I O N

(This blank is prepared specifically for the use of seminary students who desire to apply to the Board of National Missions for appointment in a summer vacation project.)

Date Jan. 31, 1939

1. David Hale Crawford 23 Parkersburg, W. Va.  
Full Name (initials not enough) Age Place of Birth
2. 731 Ridge Ave., NS. Pittsburgh, Pa. Married  
Present Address Single or Married
3. Clarion Presbytery, P Pennsylvania  
Under which Presbytery are you studying as a candidate for the ministry?
4. 1st Presbyterian Church of Emlenton, Pa.  
Name of Church in which you hold membership
5. Emlenton High School 1933  
Education: Preparatory School Class
- Asbury College 1937 A.B.  
College Class Degree
- Western Theological Seminary Middler  
Theological Seminary Class (Junior, Middler, Senior)
6. My major in College was in Rel. Ed and Rural Church work was brought out  
What courses have you had in rural church work, rural sociology and economics?  
along with General Sociology.
7. Only that which came up in my courses in Rel. Education.  
Have you made any special studies of city church work and problems?

8. I have always been in the Church and actively connected with the Christian  
Experience in Christian work

Endeavor. I held different offices in my Church and was regularly at all  
meetings. In College I did some street work along with regular mission  
work that the college did among the unfortunate ones in central Ky. This  
work consisted of going into homes visiting the sick, carrying of tracts,  
Sunday School work in homes, school houses and courthouses. We held at  
least one preaching service and some places three preaching services in  
each community every week. I was connected with this work my four years  
in college. During the summer I preached near home while working. Last  
summer I was supply at Falls Creek Presbyterian Church for 3½ mon.

9. My experience in teaching is none except in Sunday School classes and  
Experience in teaching, business, etc.

in the Bible school I conducted last summer. I worked my way through  
college plumbing and heating and water filtration. During the summer I

10. Around May 17.

If you decide to apply, when would you be ready for appointment?

I worked for Insden State Oil in one of their refineries.



Alaska, because I feel that I have had a definite call to that field.  
For summer work I would like to go to the west, because, I had my college  
training in south and worked there some and I would like to know more about  
11. the work in the West. I have always lived in this one section.

In what part of the mission field are you especially interested? Why?

12. Preaching and doing Pastorial work.

In what particular aspects of our missionary program, are you especially  
interested?

13. No

Are you a candidate for service in a foreign mission field?

14. Alaska if the door is opened.

Are you planning to begin your active ministry in a mission center or do you  
seek to be called to a self-sustaining church?

15. None

Have you any physical disability? If yes, state its nature.

16. Yes

Are you willing to devote at least 12 weeks of service to this project?

17. Rev. J.V. Koontz, Eminton, Pa.

Name and address of your pastor  
Prof. Howard Parker, Eminton, Pa.

18. Mr. H. W. Criswell, Wilmore, Ky.

Names and addresses of two or three other references, such as business  
employer, or friend of the family.

Approved by

*James S. Kelsa*

President or other representative of the Seminary

Remarks:-



February 16, 1939

Mr. David Crawford  
731 Ridge Avenue, N. S.  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Your letter of January thirty-first, addressed to Dr. Randolph, has just been referred to Dr. Somerndike for attention.

Dr. Somerndike at the present time is on a field trip, but we expect him to return next week and shall be glad to bring it to his attention then, when you will undoubtedly hear from him.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. Somerndike

HEW



*Alaska Application*

February 24th, 1939

Mr. David Crawford  
731 Ridge Ave., N. S.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Your letter addressed to Dr. Randolph has been referred to me. We are very glad to know that you are interested in Alaska and we shall be pleased to keep you in mind in connection with any opening that may be available in our Alaska work when you graduate from the seminary.

There is no special field to which we could assign you this summer which would give you any particular preparation for work in Alaska. I think that if you have the opportunity of an assignment to churches near the seminary this summer it would be advisable for you to accept it because the number of students who have applied for work under the Board is far greater than we shall be able to employ. The amount available is very limited and we have twice as many students as we can support. Please let me know whether you have any possibility of securing work in the vicinity of Pittsburgh during this summer. The experience of being the pastor of any church during the summer would be helpful to you in work in Alaska.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:PDS



Aug.  
25th  
1939

Mr. David Crawford,  
731 Ridge Avenue, N.S.,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Mr. Crawford:

In February of this year you made application for a permanent appointment in Alaska. At that time, however, Dr. Somerndike (who was in charge of the Alaska work prior to his death in March of this year) was obliged to write you that there were no openings.

I am writing now to inquire whether you are still interested in a field in Alaska, as our minister who formerly served at Craig and Klawock was obliged to leave. This is not a definite promise of the appointment but simply to learn whether you would like to be considered for the field.

If so, I would suggest that you have those who are familiar with your qualifications and fitness for the work, write in to this office, testifying to your ability, etc., etc. Your application will then be referred to the National Missions Committee in Alaska Presbytery for their consideration along with the applications of others interested in applying for this position.

We shall be glad to furnish additional details regarding the field in the event that you signify your willingness to be considered for the appointment.

Cordially yours,

BH

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.



Clarksburg, Pa.  
Oct. 10, 1939

Blanche Hopp  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Hopp:

I received your letter of Aug. 25, 1939, a few weeks ago. It was some late in coming due to the fact of my moving away from the seminary. As soon as I received your letter, I talked things over with my wife. Both of us desire very much to become located in Alaska. After thinking your letter over, I purposely held my reply until I could get back to seminary. I was hoping to be able to talk personally with some member of the board before writeing. I did meet Rev. L.M. Dimmitt and he suggested my writeing at once before talking with anyone. He also suggested these men for my recomendations: One from the seminary, one from the college, one from an old employer in the field of manual labor, and one from the churches that I am now serving.

These recomendations will be sent soon. If you desire that I send more, please advise.

I have tried to do everything that I have been advised to do, beginning with my Junior year in college. I was advised last spring to take a church rather than go out under the board during the summer. I have served all summer three churches and am serving them now while attending ~~my~~ last year at seminary. Please advise what I should do further.

I would appreciate any material or details in regard to Alaska work that you might send.

Cordially yours,

David Crawford



Oct.  
11th  
1939

Mr. David Crawford,  
Clarksburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Crawford:

I have your letter of October 10th, and just as soon as Dr. Everett B. King, our new Secretary in charge of the work in Alaska, returns from an extended field itineration the latter part of this month, I shall bring it to his attention. In order that Dr. King might have your complete record, I would suggest that you fill out and send him the enclosed Application blank for consideration along with the applications of the other candidates for this vacancy.

Very sincerely yours,

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

BH





ASBURY COLLEGE

WILMORE, KY.

H. C. MORRISON, D. D., LL. D., President  
Z. T. JOHNSON, Ph. D., Executive Vice-President  
Office of the Executive Vice-President

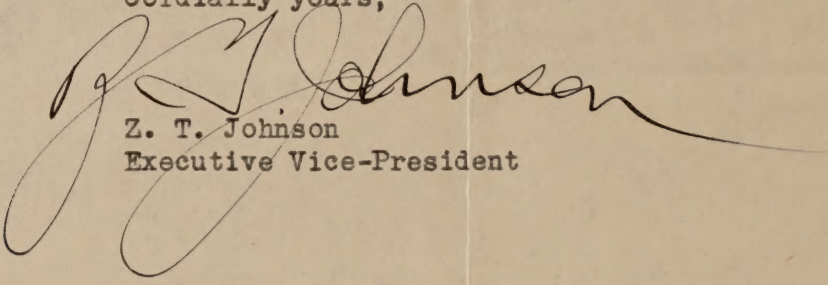
October 11, 1939

Miss Blanche Hopp  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Miss Hopp:

This is to state that David Crawford of Clarksburg, Pennsylvania, was a student at Asbury until he graduated a couple of years ago. We found Mr. Crawford to be a diligent worker and with every prospect of being a success in the ministry or mission field. We can recommend him as an unusually fine candidate for such a position.

Cordially yours,

  
Z. T. Johnson  
Executive Vice-President

ZTJ/ln





**The Western Theological Seminary**  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

October 11, 1939.

Miss Blanche Hopp  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Hopp:

Mr. David Crawford, of the Senior Class of the Seminary, has asked me to write to you in connection with his application for a permanent appointment in Alaska. I am glad to accede to his request because I think he has many qualifications which fit him for missionary work in the Alaska field. I have known him for two years as a student in the Seminary. He has been a faithful student and has made fair grades in his studies. During two summer vacations he has preached, with acceptance, as a supply in small churches. The Chairman of the Committee which had charge of his work in Clarion Presbytery in the summer of 1938 spoke to me in very cordial terms of what he had accomplished.

Mr. Crawford has a great deal of enthusiasm in his make-up, and takes up whatever work he has in hand with zeal. In the classroom he is alert to the problems involved in what he is studying. He seems to possess the evangelistic spirit, which is such an important element in the work of a missionary. He also possesses some mechanical skill. During his college course he partly paid his expenses by looking after the plumbing repairs in some of the college buildings. I mention this because I feel that some mechanical skill is very desirable in a missionary post in Alaska.

Mr. Crawford was married about a year ago. Meeting Mrs. Crawford at some of the social affairs in the Seminary, I received the impression that she was a sensible young lady. She has had some experience in the business world.

I trust that this information may be of service to you in coming to a decision about Mr. Crawford.

Very sincerely yours,

*James A. Kelso*



Oct.  
13th  
1939

President James A. Kelso,  
Western Theological Seminary,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Doctor Kelso:

Thank you very much for your letter endorsing the application of David Crawford for the vacancy in Alaska. I shall be very glad to bring your letter to the attention of Dr. Everett B. King, Secretary of the Unit of Alaska Work, upon his return from an extended field itineration the latter part of this month, when he will be considering the various applications for this field.

Very sincerely yours,

BH

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.



Oct.  
13th  
1939

Dr. Z. T. Johnson,  
Executive Vice-President,  
Asbury College,  
Wilmore, Ky.

Dear Doctor Johnson:

Thank you very much for your letter endorsing the application of David Crawford for the vacancy in Alaska. I shall be very glad to bring your letter to the attention of Dr. Everett S. King, Secretary of the Unit of Alaska Work, upon his return from an extended field itineration the latter part of this month, when he will be considering the various applications for this field.

Very sincerely yours,

BH

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.



Clarksburg. Pa. Oct 18-1939

Blanche Hoff.

156 Fifth Ave. N.Y.

This is to certify that Rev. H. Crawford has been preaching for us since last April - 1939 and is a good preacher for his second year in Seminary. is very ambitious and has been very successful we would regret very much to have him leave us but I could recommend him to any charge or Missionary work for he is very active in his field of labor and works hard as I have stated he is very ambitious in his work.

Sincerely yours

T. S. Ashbaugh, Clerk of Session of  
Clarksburg. Presbyterian Church.  
Clarksburg. Indiana. County. Pa.



Morehead. Ky.  
Oct. 19. 1939.

Blanche Hopp,  
Board of Nat. Missions  
New York. N. Y.

Dear Madam :-

It is a pleasure to  
write a word in behalf of David  
Crawford of Clarksburg, Penna.  
I have been doing  
the work of Chief Engineer for  
many years, and David worked  
for me for sometime. I saw him  
work under difficulties and  
emergencies and never heard him  
complain no matter how hard  
the work was. He was always  
cheerful.

David worked for



me in the following departments  
and did his work efficiently at  
all times: - fixing boilers, steam  
fitting, plumbing, water pumping  
and some electric work.

David has very good initiative  
and I do not think you will be  
disappointed in him in any  
work you may assign him.

Respectfully

P. P. Johnston.

Chief Eng. N. S. T. Co.  
Morehead, Ky.



Oct.  
21st  
1939

Mr. T. S. Ashbaugh,  
Clarksburg,  
Indiana County, Pa.

Dear Mr. Ashbaugh:

Thank you very much for your letter endorsing the application of David Crawford for the vacancy in Alaska. I shall be very glad to bring your letter to the attention of Dr. Everett B. King, Secretary of the Unit of Alaska Work, upon his return from an extended field itineration the latter part of this month, when he will be considering the various applications for this field.

Very sincerely yours,

BH

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.



Oct.  
21st  
1939

Mr. P. P. Thornton,  
Morehead, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Thornton:

Thank you very much for your letter endorsing the application of David Crawford for the vacancy in Alaska. I shall be very glad to bring your letter to the attention of Dr. Everett B. King, Secretary of the Unit of Alaska Work, upon his return from an extended field itineration the latter part of this month, when he will be considering the various applications for this field.

Very sincerely yours,

BH

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.



Nov.  
6th  
1939

Mr. David Crawford,  
Clarksburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Crawford:

Miss Hopp has brought to my attention your correspondence relative to an appointment in Alaska. I note that you do not complete your seminary training for another year. Of course that time element will enter into any definite arrangement that can be made. If and when you finish your school, we will be glad to try to locate you in the great Empire of Alaska. In the meantime, I trust that an opportunity will present itself for us to get acquainted. If we could sit down together in conference it would clear up any questions that may be in your mind.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister  
Cordova, Alaska

Jan. 6, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I just wish to report that Cordova is just recovering from a bad case of the Flu. We were compelled to close the Church Christmas Day and then when we were aloud to open, ~~1/24/1940~~ yesterday, our numbers were small. However, our plans ~~our~~ being built for this year. We have great hopes and expectations.. It is in regards to these hopes and expectations that I write.

I wish to first say that Dr. Albreeht on his way back to Palmer stopped in and spoke very very enthusiastical about the Young People's Camp next summer.. It was good news to me.. When he spoke about seeing you in New York and your enthusiasm for the camp I was doubly pleased. One of the great things for Cordova is for us to have a group at that camp each year. Two of the girls that were at the camp last summer are my main stand-by's this winter. Our Y.P.'s group is a very young group, because the natural age for Young People is lacking in Cordova. Therefore, these two have been a great help. I think one of the happiest moments in my life was when one of these two stepped forward at the camp fire our last night and gave her fagot to the fire and testified to the fact that Christ had come into her heart at camp. Her work now in Cordova is evidence of the fact.

Now the problem that I write you about: I have a few young people who I would like very much to see in Palmer this coming Summer.. I know the finacial circumstances of the Y.P. The trip from Cordova and expenses run nearly \$35 apeace. This is out of all proportion for a few. ~~Apwexet~~ I know that the town can't help these Y.P. out but very little. However, I know a few Churches and groups in Pa. who I think would like to help out such a group. Is it fitting and proper for me to write to these groups and lay the problem before them and let them send me money towards such a program of help? If they would do this they would be cutting down their own donations to the National Missions Board in all probability. If I should do such a thing, should I report the name of the Churches helping in this manner to you? Or just how can I go about to get help for this group? I know it is a long time before camp time, but I feel that we need to start building a long way ahead.

Another problem I am looking forward to is the problem of Vacation Bible School. Could you get me in touch with some good material to be used with a very limited faculty? Also, could you direct me to helps for the teachers of Bible School. In all probability this will be for a group of children under the High School age because at that time of the year even the Freshmen in High School will be in the canneries.



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

*Handwritten in red:*  
In the Teacher's Quartley of Jan. we saw a notice for old S.S. papers and quartles. We have saved all the extra ones and some of the used copies of both. We would like to send them. Where would you like them sent? We do not have a complete set by any means, but someone might use what we have.

Mrs. Crawford and Myself wish to thank you and your office force for the lovely card that you sent at Christmas time.

As I am writing this letter I might as well report that Cordova is going to get a Coast Guard boat stationed here. The boat was in yesterday and some of the boys were up for service. They are gone now, but they will be back. I think that the Church will have a good chance to help the boys. A few were up in the manse after Church and they seemed very enthusiast about the Church and they seemed to desire fellowship in our groups. We hope to be able to reach some of them.

An answer to these questions will greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

David H. Crawford



## QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

From David H. Crawford

Church Cordova, Alaska

Date Jan. 15, 1940

Note—This quarterly news letter is to be written in addition to all other reports. Use it for reporting the outstanding experience or experiences during the past three months in your church.

The past three months has been packed with work. There has been a marked change in the people's attitude toward the Church. We hope that this attitude continues. Whether this was caused by the excitement of Xmas or by a genuine regard for the Church one cannot definitely say. We have hope of the former. However, in spite of a raging epidemic of flu that caused us to close Sunday School one Sunday and hindered our work in preparation for Xmas, a very enjoyable Xmas eve was spent in Church. There were many out to these services that have never been in Church as long as I have been here. Sorrow many times follows joy and that was our lot. Because the health officers felt that they must close the town for everything. Flu again became rampant. Many families were all in bed. Those of us that were able to be up and around took a group of families and waited on them until they were up. Then if we hadn't come down by then we moved on to another group. And as the old saying goes, disaster sometimes brings the greatest results of friendship, so this flu helped to bind the town and the Church closer together.

We are rejoicing over another factor that has come to our city. We have had stationed in our city a Coast Guard boat. It is manned by young men. Most of them have been in the service but a couple of months. A great amount of effort is being expended by the Y.F. to bring them to their services as well as to Church and S.S. The boys are responding and in fact they have said that they are enjoying the fellowship of our Church. The Captain has also expressed his thanks for what the Church has been doing for the boys. We hope and pray that we can make our Church to fill the gap for these boys who are away from home almost for the first time. And on the other hand we hope we can make the Church and Christ so attractive that they stay away from the drinking houses and the houses of shame. I might just report that I recently heard that the wholesale price of the amount of drink that came into Cordova in the year 1940 amounted to \$73,000. That amount served less than 1200 people.

I should report about our Y.F.'s group. This group was brought together by the efforts of those Y.F. who attended the camp at Palmer last Summer. Interest in the group has been very slow, but interest has been steadily growing. Now we have some of the Coast Guard boys coming to the group and our numbers are larger, but the interest had even before the coast Guard came, increased to such an extent that many looked forward to the service. We think that this makes for a better organization than one that has great interest at first and then dies down.

*David H. Crawford*



Jan.  
17th  
1940

Mr. David Crawford,  
Clarksburg, Pa.

Dear Mr. Crawford:

I am to be in Pittsburgh on  
February 2nd and would like to meet you and talk  
with you about the work in Alaska. Could you  
arrange to meet me on that date?

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH



Clarksburg, Pa.  
Feb. 5, 1940

Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:

Since talking with you on Friday I went to see Rev. Humke of Punxsutawney. He is the chairman of the committee on Christian Education. When I asked him in regards to ordination, he said they had no standing rule as to the need of having a direct call to a church, but he said in light of a situation that came up before the Presbytery last spring it would better if you would send him a letter stateing your desire that I be ordained. He said there might be trouble and if we had a letter from you stateing that fact, then there would be no need for the trouble going as far as it did the previous year. Last year it was over a man in almost the same circumstances as I am in. However, when you send the letter to Rev. Humke, there should be no trouble whatsoever in my ordination. This man's address to whom you will write the letter is:-- H.C. Humke, 110 Church St., Punxsutawney, Pa.

I hope you have a pleasant trip to Alaska and I hope you bring me back some good news. Thanking you for all of your trouble. I remain;

Cordially yours,

David H. Crawford



731 Ridge Ave.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
April 9, 1940

Mr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

When I came to school I found your letter of April 6. I thought that it was understood with you that ~~what~~ ever arrangements you made in regards to sailing were perfectly satisfactory with us. *- attached*

I might make my report in regards to getting ready. Anne was operated on a week ago Sat. and she is doing very nicely. I hope to take her home the later part of this week. I have started to pack and what a job. A member of one of my churches is furnishing me with poplar lumber to make bokes. The refinery where I used to work has given me two great big sugar barrels to pack my dishes in. Last night I got one box made and filled with books. Tonight the ladies of one church and the men of one of the other churches are coming in and help make boxes and pack. I hope to be able to send my stuff off by the middle of next week.

I haven't gotten my pictures as yet, but will sent you one as soon as they come. I will send the report of my life along with the letter.

You wanted to know when my ordination service would be. It will be on Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock. If it is possible for you to get to Pittsburgh, I will take you from there and see that you will have a bed as long as you wish to stay.

If there is anything else, please write. We are anxiously getting ready to go and whatever you arrange is satisfactory with us.

Cordially yours,

David Crawford



731 Ridge Ave.  
H.S., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
April 18, 1940

Dr. E. B. King

National Mission of the  
Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

151 Fifth Ave.

New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King,

There are a few things that I want to ask you about not am writing this letter at school. Are you going to be able to come for my ordination? I passed my Presbytery ~~passed~~ without a bit of trouble. They have set the date for that service, April 30 at 7:00 P.M. in my home Church in Emlenton, Pa. The Committee thought it would be very good if you could be there + if you can come, we desire you to have the invocation. As I said before I can take you from Pittsburgh.

Today a man by the name of Allen came + spoke to me. He is a man 37 yrs. of age with a family + a very deep + sincere Christian. He was a worker in the Y.M.C.A. for a number of years. He is Methodist + has been serving in that Church for 5 years. Now he is ~~going~~ coming here at Emlenton + will finish ~~his~~ work in May. For a number of years his wife + himself have felt the call to Alaska, but never had the opportunity presented to them. He heard you speak last winter + since that time has been thinking of it would be possible for him to go out under the Presbyterian Church. He is very much inclined toward the Presbyterians + he would like very much to talk with you + let you advise him. I told him that I had to write you + would mention the above facts to you. He has two years yet in his ministry + wants to finish them before going to stay. If you come for my ordination, will you not be able to see him then.



I went in to the station to check up on the cost of transportation & found that freight rates were a lot lower than express. I also found that by crating in separate boxes many different things I could get lower rates. I also found that it takes 10 days from Pittsburgh to Seattle. For these reasons I am holding my boxes until next week. When you were here I said I thought that by that time I would have enough money gathered together to pay the freight & then let you send me the money. I have borrowed some money in order to pay the Hospital & have collected some on my furniture, but I am afraid I still won't have enough. I hope to get by with ~~the~~ the amount I have borrowed, so I don't want to make another note. Could you send me \$50 to go with the money I have so I can ship my stuff? My calculation without weighing the boxes is \$160, but I will know as soon as I ~~weigh~~ take the boxes into the hallways.

Mrs. Crawford is doing very nicely & the Dr. told me yesterday that she ought to be able to travel by our allotted time.

One other thing that I am curious about, when I was in to see the freight agent I ~~asked~~ asked if I could see his latest Railroad magazine. I wanted to see what stops the boat Yukon made on the trip from Seattle. When looking at this I saw this boat was scheduled to sail on ~~the~~ May 20th + not 25th. Was this book that I was looking at wrong or has there been a misprint in our writing? I did notice, however, that the boat Alaska was scheduled for the 26th. This something could disrupt the printed schedule? Hoping to hear from you on return mail & seeing you on April 30, I remain.

Sincerely yours,  
David H. Crawford

May 25th  
all mail  
Yukon  
Alaska  
with return



April 22, 1940

Mr. David Crawford  
751 Ridge Ave.  
N.S. Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear David:

I am sorry that it will not be possible for me to attend the Ordination Service. I would like to very much. I spoke to Dr. Black, and in all possibility he will be there.

Your boat sails May 25th, regardless of any other information you might have. Reservations have already been made for that date.

I note that you want \$50.00. I thought we had agreed that you would take care of all the necessary expenses, and then when you got ready to leave you would have a total sum to submit and then one check would take care of the whole matter. So I believe that will be the best plan to follow. You can borrow \$50.00 or other small items from the bank for thirty days. When you are ready to give me a final accounting, I will then send you the check for the amount in full.

I shall be very glad for your friend to write to me about his plans and hopes for Alaska, and the first opportunity I have I will talk to him about it.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E



731 Ridge Ave.  
N.S. Pittsburgh, Pa.  
May 1, 1940

Dr. E. B. King  
Board of National Missions  
Of the Presbyterian Church  
In the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I received the Pass on the Great Northern and I believe I am now in position to present my financial report. I received my pictures today, so I am including one of them and I am also giving this brief History of myself as you asked. If you want more or of a different type, please write and tell me and I will try to give you the information. Would you also like a picture of both my wife and myself together. Both of our parents wanted a picture so we are having some made and I will give you one, if you desire.

#### History

I was born in Parkersburg, W.Va., April 18, 1915, but did not stay in that state very long. For I was less than 1 year old when we moved to Penn. All of my childhood remembrances are the pleasant adventures and pains that I received in the small town of Emlenton. This town is situated on the Allegheny River nestled in the Allegheny foot-hills. As a boy much time was spent roaming those hills and boating and swimming in the river. The gang to which I belonged was nicknamed by the town, the river rats, because we were on the river so much. When a boy, I was very much of a weakling. I was under weight and was sick every winter. The active life of the out-of-doors started me toward the health I now enjoy.

My time was not always spent in play. My Father has always worked and is partner in a cast iron foundry. When I was 6, I began helping him with the work that I was able to do.

By the summer that I was eight, I had become disgusted at just play and doing the work that Dad would let me do in the foundry. Therefore, I went out to a farm and asked for work. I worked that summer and the following summer for my room and board. The next five summers I was able to earn my own cloths with my summer work on the farm. The last two winter I stayed on the farm and drove back and forth to school with a school teacher. I might just add that during this period of seven years, the only times that I missed S.S. was on the Sundays that I was sick and I was forced to walk in 5 miles each Sunday morning to S.S. in order to do it.

The fall following my 7th summer on the farm (my Sophmore year in High School), I felt that I would like to go out for football. I couldn't do this and stay on the farm. I needed more money for clothes. Therefore, I took a job as store-room boy in a grocery store. I kept this job until I graduated from High School. Upon graduation, the manager of the store told me he couldn't pay me as much as I was worth and if I cared to, try and get something better. I made application for work in the Emlenton Refinery and as soon as there was an opening, I was called. I quit the store to make paper boxes for the refinery. When the man who was sick and whose place I had taken, came back, I was transferred to another part of the plant.



That winter my grandfather helped me by a gift of \$400 and I went to school (Asbury College, Wilmore, Ky.) From there on I made my own school expences except for nearly another \$400 that came in small gifts to me by friends. My first year at school I ~~work~~ed at the job of shoveling coal from the coal car to the Truck and then again from the truck into the school coal bin. This work was supplimented by washing pots and pans in the dining room.

The next three years I worked in the boiler room and at steam fitting, plumbing, painting smoke stacks, taking care of the water pumps and filtration plant, the complete water system of the town and in fact general mechanical and plumbing work.

During the summer vacations and each Christmas vacation, I worked again at the Emlenton Refinery at any job they had. Ex. pick and shovel, painting, landscaping, clean ups (towers), pipe fitting, etc.

During my college days I was active in the student service league of the school. This league went out and held services in many of the poor communities around the school. We held S.S. and preaching services every week.

Upon graduating from College I went back to the Refinery in order to save money enough to go to Seminary. That Fall I enrolled in Western Theological Seminary. I preached several times that winter in and about Pittsburgh.

Upon finishing up the school year, I took one of the important steps in a man's life. I married Miss Anne Smith of Erie on May 19, 1938.

I wanted to get work in some church, but there seemed as though there were none open. Therefore, I went back to the refinery. After working three weeks a call came for me to go to Falls Creek, Pa. and supply that church three mon. This proved to be a very great help to me during the following winter in the Seminary.

The second Sunday in Jan. (1939) I went to Ebenezer Presbyterian church (Kittaning Presbytery) to supply. I seemed to be liked and they sent for me to come and supply again the second Sunday in Feb. While there that day, they asked me to come every Sunday for a while. In the April meeting of Presbytery. Ebenezer was again placed with Clarksburg and Tunnelton was added to the field. The churches were all vacant and all of the churches were agreed to call me as Stated Supply. I worked in these three churches until I brought my work to a close on May. 5, 1940.

I was taken under the care of the Presbytery of Clarion in April of 1937. On April 18, 1939 I was liscensed by the same Presbytery and on April 30, 1940, I was ordained by this same Presbytery in my Home church in Emlenton.

The greatest experience of my life was the day when I gave my heart over into the hands of my Master. I left High School in 1933 with a great desire to enter the field of Science. At the same time, I was going through the most depressing period of my life. I was not satisfied. Everything in reference to God made me tremble. My heart cried out and said, You need Christ. I didn't pray, because I was afraid to pray. I purpossely made excuses so I could get away from church. I lived in constant dread and fear. My fear was the fear of God's wrath. I knew the way of Salvation but abhorred the thoughts. I lost sleep that summer and lost weight because of it. I went to school physically poor, because of that constant struggle within. The first Friday that I was in School I got into a prayer meeting. I saw the joy in the faces of most of those boys and I saw the peace that was evidenced in their faces.



Someone asked if there were any there in that group who was tired of the kind of life that he had been living. The Lord knew that I was, I was on the last string. I fell on my knees and cried out to him amid my tears and the sweat that poured out over my body. I prayed to God. He heard my cry and put a peace in my heart. I slept better that night than I had any night before. That same peace received that night is still with me today.

That winter (1933-34) the question God put in my heart was the question in regards to my future work. I could not help but feel that He wanted me in His ministry. After praying about it the desire was made stronger. I couldn't give up my plans for the field of science without a struggle. I wanted to go into that field. However, after about 8 mon. I gave up to God. Again I had a peace come into my heart. A peace that I could not explain entered in.

This period of peace was immediately followed with another problem. Out of a clear blue sky came the word to my soul. Would you go to Alaska and work for me? That was a blow. What was that voice? Was it my adventurous spirit or a call from God, I thought it was the former and cast it off. Instead this voice cried out the louder. This voice haunted me for days. The burden became so heavy. This voice was haunting me like a shadow. One day I came in from my classes and I let my books fall on my desk. I literally fell on my knees at my bedside. My prayer was this prayer, "My Oh Lord! I give up. I can't believe you want me in Alaska. I believe this is just a whim of adventure, but I am willing to do what you want. I will do everything possible in order to go to Alaska. If you want me there, open the way. I am going to try to go. If you don't want me there, close the door. I am willing to do thy will." Again that peace came into my heart. That night I wrote the Board of National Missions and since that time I have tried to do all they ask.

When Dr. King finally told me that I was to go to Cordova, the sweetest peace ~~peace~~ that I ever had experienced came into my heart. Since that day, life has been far more wonderful to me, for I feel certain that God is truly leading.

The health that I have, I ~~contribute~~ contribute to the outdoor life that I lived when a child and still working on the farm.

My hobby, as such, is hunting and fishing and nature study. This hobby has been the outgrowth of my physical need. I realized a long time ago that I must have the out of doors in order to have health. This lead me to this hobby and now I am really an enthusiastic about them.

#### Back to the letter

I was ordained last night and was very sorry that you could not be there with us.

The following is my financial report or standing. I went to the representative of the Great Northern and the following is his calculation and also the amount I will need to borrow from the board in order to pay my debts and also the amount I advanced (by loan) to send my things to Seattle. I was a long way off in my estimate. The scales proved I couldn't judge the weight of boxes and crates.



\$231.91 Cost of Sending our things to Seattle  
100.00 The amount I would like to borrow to pay my debts.  
21.15 Both of our fares from Pittsburgh to Chicago  
6.30 Price of Sleeper to Chicago for both of us.  
64.34 Anne's fare from Chicago to Seattle  
26.50 Sleep~~er~~ from St. Paul to Seattle  
7.93 My Fare from Chicago to St. Paul  
12.00 Estimate of meals while on train (both)

400  
We spoke to the Doctor in regards to Anne's traveling. He suggested that we have a lay over in Chicago and one some place before the next 24 hours. and then one in Seattle before sailing. He said that if she traveled that way there would be no danger. That is why we looked that schedule up as presenting the above figures also taking into consideration the pass that you got for me. This means that we will have to spend :--

1 Night in a Hotel in Chicago.  
1 Night in a Hotel in St. Paul.  
1 Night in a Hotel in Seattle.

You have traveled far more than I have. This is my first long train ride. You know the prices of hotels better than I do. So please consider these as well.

I never did understand what you said in regards to transportation. If the board covers the above mentioned expenses please send me as a loan just the \$100 that I need for my debts. If the board does not furnish all of the things mentioned, please add these on to my loan. If Anne hadn't had this operation, I would not have needed to make any loan. Her operation along with the things we have to buy in the line of cloathing and out debts were a little too mych. My churches and my home church have been very good to us in giving us many nice things and also money for some of my debts. I haven't gotten as much out of my furniture as I expected. I lost over a half on that.

This is a mighty long epistle, but I hope it has in it the information that you want and need..

I almost forgot to mention one fact that the man at the Great Northern office made. He said, since we got a pass on the great Northern, it is possible that we might a get a pass on the Burlington from Chicago to St. Paul. If you can get that pass, then that \$7.93 (My fare from Chicago to St. Paul) could be taken off the list.

Cordially yours,

David H. Crawford



May 3, 1940

Rev. David H. Crawford  
731 Ridge Ave. N.S.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear David:

Thanks for sending your history and picture, together with your expense account. Herewith I am sending you a check for \$500.00. \$100.00 represents the advance on your salary. We will deduct the amount that you designate each month between now and September 30th, in order to liquidate this loan. There will be no interest charge, and all that is necessary is that the bill be repaid by October 1st. You let me know the amount that you can afford to have deducted from your check.

I am making the expense check \$400.00 in the place of the \$370.00 as you have requested. Your estimate for meals on the train is too small. You have not included any extra money for tips that you will necessarily be out. Neither have you included any hotel accommodations. So I am hopeful that this \$30.00 will take up the slack that will be in your estimate.

It am sorry that it was not possible for me to be present at your ordination service.

May the Lord bless you and keep you on your journey.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E  
enc.



731 Ridge Ave.  
N.S., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
May 8, 1940

Dr. E.B. King  
Board of National Missions  
Of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I received your letter and check. I wish to thank you for your kind consideration for us and all that you have been doing for us.

In regards to the loan of \$100, you can take \$30 out of my salary each month beginning with the June salary. I feel that we will be able to manage on the remainder. *noted H & W*

There is one thing that I would like to know, in regards to my salary that I don't think you made clear to me. I have an impression that you said that you would send my salary for June and also for May, from the 15th, before we left the states. I would like to know so I could arrange my budget to fit the needs, when I get to Cordova.

*Aug 15*  
You were going to send me material concerning the summer conference that is being held I believe at Palmer. With this material you were going to tell me what I should do about the conference. You were not sure of the time and arrangements of the conference when we last met.

I had the Stated Clerk of Clarion Presbytery send my letter of dismail to the Stated Clerk of Yukon Presbytery, as you told me. Now I am wondering whether or not I am to be installed or what sort of arrangement do I have with this church in Cordova. I presume I am to be the moderator of the session with the same authority as a regular installed pastor is here in the States.

Would you please send me a list of the members of Yukon Presbytery. Then I will be looking forward to meeting the men as I have opportunity to do so.

Please send me any other words of wisdom or instruction, that you think I should have. I want to do the best I can for the kingdom of God.

I might report that the reservations are now all made from here to Seattle and we are anxiously waiting the time of departure. I am now in the midst of exams. Graduation is on the 16th and we are going to seave Pittsburgh on the 19th.

Again I wish to thank you for all of the many things you have done for us, and I hope I don't fail you in the work that you have appointed me to do.

Sincerely yours,

*David Crawford*

May 11, 1940

Rev. Mr. David Crawford  
731 Ridge St. N.S.  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear David:

Your salary, as I stated to you, will begin May 15th. I do not have any memory at all of telling you that your salary would be paid before you left the States. I do remember saying very clearly that we would start your salary as of May 15th. With the loan that we made, I did not think that you would need any additional funds.

The summer conference that is to be held in Palmer will begin on August 15th. You will have ample time to survey the field in Cordova and to be governed accordingly. Rev. Mr. Bert Bingle, who has charge of the conference, will probably meet you at Valdez, and he can tell you more in detail about the plans.

The following is a list of the members of the Yukon Presbytery:

- Rev. Boyd Cabbage at Anchorage
- Rev. John E. Youel, supply minister at Fairbanks
- Rev. R. Rolland Armstrong, newly appointed pastor at Fairbanks who will sail on the same ship with you.
- Rev. Bert Bingle, Pastor of our Community Church at Palmer

In addition to these men you have Miss Ann Bannen on St. Lawrence Island, Miss Emma Stauffer at Wales, Percy Ipalook at Wainwright, Roy Ahmaogak at Barrow until Mr. Klerekoper returns, then at Wainwright, and Rev. Fred G. Klerekoper at Barrow.

I am looking forward to a real report from you when you get on the field in Alaska.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E



Cordova, Alaska  
June 3, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King  
% Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

We had a wonderful trip to Alaska and we arrived here safely Wed. night about 10:30 P.M. We were fortunate to meet the Armstrong's and the Arthur's on the streets of Seattle about an hour after we had arrived. We had close fellowship together on our way to Alaska. We were entertained by the Pederson's in Wrangle and ~~the~~ Mrs. Glasse in Juneau. In Petersburg we had the privilege of seeing our Church. In Ketchikan there were two young people at the docks that welcomed the Arthur's and took us to the Church. All in all we were inspired greatly by the things we saw and visited along our trip.

On arriving in Cordova, we were met by a delegation from the Church. With this delegation we found Rev. Bingle. We were escorted to the Church and the manse. Words cannot describe our feelings as we viewed the beautiful Chapple and the manse. The people had just finished painting the Church and the Sunday School rooms. Everything was in order and it was far above the impression that you gave. The people have been so kind and considerate to us. Rev. Bingle helped by telling me some of the things to expect and some of the things that would help me in this field. Then he outlined the Summer conference. He wants me to teach a course in stewardship. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to ask you for material on that subject. Bingle suggested that I ask you to send it.

We had our first services yesterday and they were well attended. We had 53 children out for Sunday School and in the evening we had 57 out for service. I have been told today that that is extremely good for this season of the year. Our prayer is that this may continue and many could be won for the kingdom of God.

At this time I wish to again pledge to you and the board our loyalty. The prayer of Anne and myself is the prayer that we may ever be true to the cause of Christ. If you have any suggestions to offer at any time, we will be glad to receive those suggestions for we both feel that you are working for the cause of Christ.

I am grateful for all the many kind and thoughtful things that you did for us in our preparation and in our coming to this new field. We hope and pray that we may do the type of work that you desire for this field.

Cordially yours,

David H. Crawford

## QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

From David H. Crawford

Church Cordova, Alaska

Date June 15, 1948

NOTE—This quarterly news letter is to be written in addition to all other reports. Use it for reporting the outstanding experience or experiences during the past three months in your church.

Dear Mr. King,

Due to the short time that I have been here I have little to write this time. We arrived supply & have begun our work. By my monthly report you can see to meet with the different local workers. I found the Church lagging by their hopes. The L. L. workers were held together by promises that they could turn their work over when the new minister came. The trustees & session had been wondering whether the church doors should be left open. The town folks had even made remarks in regard to the church being without a minister. I believe we have been able to calm the waters. I have been attending the different town meetings. I have been spending much time among the stores & business houses. In this way I have met most of the people of town & talked with some. This is the fishing season & we cannot expect very much. It has been the custom in this town for the Y. P. to close to stop during the summer months. So far I have the support of the Y. P. that they will not close. I have done some Pastoral calling, but I have felt it better to go to the business houses & make contact with the people as they come & go. In the near future I hope to get out on a number of the fishing boats, for I feel confident that one needs to get near to these people's work in order to get near to their heart.

I will keep on doing my best & hope to have a better report by October.

David H. Crawford

I am sending this report directly to you for as yet I have not met the man who is National Mission Chairman in the territory.



June 20, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

I was glad to receive your enthusiastic letter describing your impressions of Alaska and your zeal and fervor over the prospects for the work in Cordova. I, too, have had some reports describing the reaction of the people. It seems that you and Anne have been graciously received into the hearts of the people there in Cordova, for which I am thankful.

I am glad that Mr. Bingle had the opportunity of seeing you and talking to you about the work.

For your course on stewardship I am sending you a book entitled "The World's Goods". I think you will find it a very interesting discussion of stewardship. It is one of the best I have found.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

Cordova, Alaska  
July 19, 1940

Dr. E. B. King  
Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I have been here in Cordova a little over a month and a half. The last thing that you said to me was at the airport in Pittsburgh. There you asked me to be fair with you and give you the facts as I found them and as I see them. I am glad that you wish to do business this way. What I say at any time I don't want it to look like I am trying to knock any other man or to exalt myself. I want to state the facts as I see them. I do not know what kind of reports you have previously received from Cordova. I know comparatively nothing about what was told you while you were on your field trip here, but I do know that Cordova is not the Utopia of Church life. The Church records are in bad shape. I do not know the number that has been reported as being on the Church roll, but as near as I can learn from the records, we have only 21 members. Included in this 21 are 8 that I cannot find in town. I can find very little about them. There are two others who are leaving for the outside. There is also another situation that is not just right. Two of my trustees are not members of the church and one is seldom seen inside the Church. This town is practically pickled in alcohol and when I say anything about it, I receive a nod of approval from many who come to church, but during the next hour or so the bottles are tipped by some (I should say many) of this group who nodded their heads.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not sorry I came to Alaska. Instead, I am glad that I have the opportunity to be able to do my best for the Master. I felt that you should know the facts as I have found them here in Cordova. I am not discouraged in the least. I am taking for my motto that verse of Scripture in Jn. 4:37, "One soweth another reapeth." I think I see the answer to this Church in our Sunday School. I also have faith in the personal work that I am trying to do. Let me give examples of these two. The people here in Cordova believe in using Sundays as holidays and they want to forget the Church. Last Sunday we had 3 members of the Church present in the congregation of 21. The rest were new comers to the town or some that I had been talking with. One man who was present was there for the first time in years. He is an old man who has lived in Cordova since its early days. He told me one day that the last time he had been in Church was an evening his lodge had charge. That was many years ago. At first his attitude toward me was one of indifference. Since our first casual meeting in the Dr.'s office I have been in his house and talked with him many times and also in Church. I have great hopes of seeing him again in Church from his own statements this week. The same evening there was another man in Church who had come the Sunday before. I know that this was his first time in years. I believe that this is another good example of casual meetings and casual conversations. I expect him back as well as the other man.

I spoke of the Sunday School. I believe that this is the big salvation to this Church. Our attendance has stayed us exceedingly well. The last two Sundays have been the finest in regards to weather, but still the children



come. They come because they want to come. In a number of cases I know it has been the desire of the children to come to Sunday School that has kept the parents home until after the service. Otherwise they would have been gone on picnics early in the morning. This is encouraging indeed.

We started a new Sunday School class for the older young people. This class is a source of great joy to us. Those who have enrolled have expressed their appreciation of such a class. They are all non members of the Church, but some are already thinking about joining with the Church. This group seems very loyal to the Church and they are regular in attendance. I also find the highest ideals of the town represented in this S.S. class.

The young people's work is totally on the rocks at present. The canneries have moved into their big season and I have only 2 young people remaining in the city. The rest have moved out to the canneries and are working there. Sunday is just another working day to them. I am trying to keep in touch with them wherever they are. Some of them were interested in the church before the season started and we hope to have them all back with others at the close of the season.

I should report on the condition of the natives in this town. This is a very sore spot indeed. The whites will have nothing to do with them. All the whites care about the natives is the money they have to spend and their women that they can use. This is a deplorable state. Even within the Church there is that awful hateful spirit. It does to a large extent have the tendency of drowning out the Christian atmosphere that one tries to build up. The government man who has been here has been working on this problem and helped to a great extent. He is one of the finest Christian men that I have ever met. He comes to S.S. and Church whenever possible. However, he has been turning over the school to an independent group who have been holding services for these natives. They seem to be doing much good with the natives and at the good suggestion of Rev. Bingle I have kept out of the native work. The sad part about this government man is the fact that he is being transferred. His transfer came after we had made plans in regards to a still larger program for the natives that would, we hoped, help to erase this feeling between white and native. All that we can do now is wait until the next man comes and pray that he is as great a Christian as the man that is leaving.

I will close this rather dismal letter by stating, I am happy in the service of the King.

Sincerely yours,

David H. Crawford



On Monday August 12, we set sail on the S. S. Mt. McKinley, for a trip of 255 miles across the Gulf to Seward. There we boarded the Alaska Railroad train for an additional 170 miles to Katanaska, where we were picked up in a truck by Rev. M. J. Hingle, pastor of the Palmer church.

The delegation from Cordova included: Rubye Kero, high school teacher, Jeanne Phillips, Charlene Craft, Charlotte Maslet, Virginia Nicholeff, high school students, and Rev. & Mrs. David Crawford. The delegation was aided in traveling expense by reductions from the steamship and railroad companies, but the expense was still quite high, being \$30 each person for round trip.

To give a clearer picture of the founding of the camp, let us look to the organization sponsoring it. The Territory of Alaska is divided by sections between the various Protestant denominations. Most all the towns and villages are small so it would be very unwise for two Protestant churches to try to work in one locality. The Presbyterian has its designated sections to work in, the Methodists theirs, etc. But all the ministers and leading laymen of these various churches have combined their efforts for better work in the organization known as the United Protestant Council. The first piece of work to be done by this Council was the organization of a Young People's Camp on a three acre site along King's Lake. It is truly a beauty-spot of nature. The lake is large enough for good swimming and boating, but still small enough that the leaders can keep in full view at all times, the campers while they are out on or in the water. The lake is surrounded by birch, aspen and spruce trees. Back of this circle of trees, are the majestic high, towering mountains, with their white snow caps. The Camp buildings are; a large log mess hall, one log bunk house and seven large tents, four of which have wooden floors and small stoves. Within the next two years, we who are interested in the improvement of the Camp, hope to be able to build a large log Assembly Hall and all log bunk houses. We expect to do this with the combined efforts of the young people here in Alaska and any financial aid we may be able to get from friends in the states who are interested in a better Youth Program for Alaska.

As the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches are the two leading Protestant churches, they were fully responsible for the program of the Camp. It was conducted like any camp outside (that is the Alaskan saying for the States) in the morning we have first of all, devotions, followed by breakfast, four class periods, in which we study the important problems in young people's lives as well as mission and Bible work. At noon we have lunch, followed by one hours rest period, then supervised recreation all afternoon. At six o'clock we had dinner, followed by evening vesper service, camp fire service and then group devotions in the separate tents just before lights out at 10:15 P.M.

Transportation facilities are very poor and expensive throughout the Territory so it is very seldom that a young person has the opportunity of making friends, other than by correspondence, with other young people of the Territory. So if the Conference was held for no other purpose it would well be worth the time and expense to bring these young folks together to know and learn what the rest of the Territory is like. At the Camp we were privileged to become friends with Eskimo young people from Point Barrow, Wainwright and Kotzebue; Indian young folks from the Aleutian Islands, Bethel etc. as well as other white young people from all parts of the Territory except Southeastern. These young people of the other races dressed, talked and acted just like the white folks, the only way one could tell they were of a different race, was by their high cheek bones and color of skin.

It was interesting to note, while talking with the Eskimo young people that they said that in their town or village, all inhabitants were members of and attended the church regularly, which is an encouraging boost to any missionary or the Board sending him out. But on the other hand, we regret to say that in all the towns where the whites are living it is very difficult to get even a handful to become interested in the church. No matter what you may think of the Eskimo and Indian, he was primarily a strong character and one will find that only where the white man has entered in his disease, immorality



and disregard for the law, made their inroads into the native life.

Several of the young people came to the camp for the mere idea of having a good time. It was well to note at the end of the session that these young people had not only had a good time, but had learned much of the problems of life, the Bible, personal relations to God; and on the last night of Camp, dedicated their lives to whatever service Christ may call them to.

The closing evening service was a Fagot Service. Dr. Albrecht, physician and surgeon at the Government Hospital in Fairer, gave a very inspiring message. It was a beautiful moon-lit night, and the lake as smooth as glass. The boys made a large wooden cross, laid it down flat, put candles all over the sides, facing up; then took this out onto the middle of the lake, laid it on the water and lit the candles. So during the entire service, we could see this flaming cross on the water. We were all meeting around a small bon-fire. As Dr. Albrecht concluded his message, he gave the invitation to the young people to dedicate their lives to our Lord Jesus Christ. In so doing, they would rise to their feet, walk to the fire, pick up a fagot (small piece of wood) and throw it on the bon-fire. This little act of adding to the fire, was their symbol of offering their lives to Christ. Next the invitation was given to those, who had dedicated their lives before but now wanted to make a new consecration to Christ. Lastly, the invitation was given to those who would like to follow Christ, but the way was not yet clear, and would like to have the other young people pray for them. By this time nearly every young person and faculty member had placed a fagot on the fire, now making it a roaring bon-fire. It was indeed an impressive service to see white, Indian and Eskimo young people all striving for the same purpose, without any thought or barrier of race prejudice.

Following are a few quotations from the young people, as to what the King's Lake Youth Conference meant to them:

"This year at camp has been the highest point in my life so far. New truths have come to me, not only from the staff but from the students also. I don't believe I can mingle with a more pleasant group of students than they who seek new truths and try solving new problems."

-Valentine Tutikoff -Aleut Indian, desiring to study for the ministry, who is now at Jesse Lee Home (Methodist) in Seward, Alaska  
"It gives me a desire to know God and to learn more of Him. Being out in nature, it makes me feel closer to God. Through conference I can get more help in devotions and Bible study, and it also helps me to meet a lot of new friends."

-Hazel Aveoganna, Eskimo from Wainwright, Alaska, now attending the Government Vocational School at Eklutna, Alaska.

"Maybe it is just the atmosphere of King's Lake, or maybe it is the fellowship of all Alaska, but whatever it is, the memories I shall take home with me will serve as an incentive to bring me back next year."

-Virginia Nicholoff, part-native of Cordova, now a senior in high school  
"This past week has been great experience in the lives of each one of us. Through the members of the faculty we have learned more of the Christ who died on the Cross for us, and they have aided us in obtaining an understanding of Christianity. This camp has been a great success in the minds of young people."

Bonnie Martin, white girl from Fairbanks, senior in high school.

This is an example of the work being done among the young people in Alaska, but some yet have never been touched by the gospel, so many places yet have never been reached by the missionaries. So, we of Alaska, are looking to you, our friends in the States, for prayers and financial aid to help carry the blessed Gospel to All, here in this "last Frontier of the United States."

Sincerely, Anne Crawford  
David Crawford

Members of Faculty at King's Lake Youth Conference:  
Dr. Walter Torbit, head of Methodist Missions in Alaska  
Rev. E. J. Bingle, dean of Camp, pastor of Presbyterian Church at Fairer  
Rev. & Mrs. Roland Armstrong, of Presbyterian Church at Fairbanks  
Rev. John Youel, Presbyterian pastor-at-large of Alaska  
Mrs. Leland Bellinger, instructor from Methodist Jesse Lee Home, Seward  
Rev. Frederick Phillips, pastor of Congregational Church at Valdez  
Rev. Boyd Cabbage, pastor of Presbyterian church at Anchorage  
Rev. & Mrs. David Crawford, of Presbyterian Church at Cordova



## QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

From David H.. Crawford

Church First Presbyterian Church of Cordova Alaska

Date Sept. 17, 1940

NOTE— This quarterly news letter is to be written in addition to all other reports. Use it for reporting the outstanding experience or experiences during the past three months in your church.

I believe the letters sent in the Mounth of June and July will tell the important things that I encountered those mounths.. Since that time much has taken place.. The latter part of July was the most hectic season that I have ever encountered.. I was trying to line up our delegation to the Y.P.'s camp at Palmer. In the midst of this rush the fish began to run. The canneries began to yell for workers. Boats were coming into the dock to load fish and no men to work the boats. After many frantic appeals had been made for workers, I went to the dock and offered my services. Between doing the studying that I had to do and tending to the affairs that came up and working from 8 to 12 hrs. a day at the dock I was busy. However, the best Pastorial work that I did this summer was accomplished while woring at the dock.. There have been some of those men in Church since I went to work. I have the respect of all the men, and they put their complete trust in me. Just the other day the fire Chief and Chief of Polece and general foreman for the town came and said, "The best thing that you have done in Cordova was your going to the dock and work." I might tell a little story on how I handled one man who I had worked with. Coming back from Palmer there was a man on the boat that I had worked with. We were standing talking when three other men came past and said to my friend, "come with us." I saw that they had a bottle. When my friend turned to go I reached out and took the man by the neck and pulled him back and said, "Just because you have \$50. in your pocket and more coming to you when you get to Cordova is no reason for you going and taking a drink. I haven't seen you drinking before and I don't want to see it now." He looked into my face and said, "Why I haven't touched a drop since last year." I replied that's fine, now don't spoil your record." He replied, "All right and



turned and spoke about the beautiful scenery.. I then came back to the Church and said, "I haven't seen you in Church yet, why not come tomorrow night." He didn't reply, but on Sunday night as I entered my pulpit there sat my friend and he has been regular in attendance. I don't give that story to show how to do pastoral work, but I give it to show that some of these people need that kind of handling and the fact that you have to get next to them before you can do a thing.

One of the greatest highlights of the summer was our Y.P.'s camp at Palmer. For a report on the camp I am enclosing a report that we have written up of the camp and are sending to the different Missionary Societies who we are in correspondence with.

September has come with the opening of school and the exodus of most of the fishermen and cannery workers. Many have gone to other parts of Alaska to work. Our members and those interested in the Church work have been cut to few in number, but I still feel that we have a great task on our hands that has to be done.. We are trying to gather in the loose ends of our organization and set the Church on an active program. This is slowly being accomplished.. As far as numbers our numbers are small and I rather imagine that they will remain small, but there is at the present time a better feeling toward the Church than when I came.

Sincerely yours,

David H. Crawford



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

October 19, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

In report of our work for the past month I might say that the work is continuing and we are doing our best. However, much might be said. Roughly I would say that the population of Cordova is almost cut in half when compared to the population of the summer. The population is smaller now than ever in the history of the town, but the numbers turning out for service are high in comparison with other years. (This last statement made from what old residences say.) As far as a program is concerned, we have tried in every way to build up an active Church program to meet the needs of the community. I have tried to cooperate in every way with the civic programs. At present we have a better understanding between white and native than there has been. This is largely due to the man who is now in charge of the Indian affairs. The Church is trying to help him as much as possible. The past month has been full of planning and organizing, but we have one great difficulty to buck all the time. It is a difficulty that will hinder all of our organizing and our planning unless we can get the trouble settled out. This is the problem of selfishness. It is expressing itself in Cordova by small cliques. The sad part is that one of the strongest of these is within the Church. They represent a part of our officers. I would say that this one clique is causing more harm to the church of Cordova than almost anything else. In talking with some of the people of the town about their relation with the Church, they say, "If it were not for that small group, who think they are running the Church, I would take more part." Some add for the last sentence "I would come to service." I know that such expressions are used to cover up and as an excuse, but there are too many sincere people saying this not to think of its significance. I believe that this is our biggest problem in Cordova. It is far bigger than the drink or the moral problem, and I wish that you would remember us in your prayers in regard to the problem. I know that God answers prayer and He can solve the problem where we cannot.

I might report that we are finding each and every day individuals who have drawn up into themselves because of these cliques. As we find these individuals and get to know them, they are individuals with wonderful personalities and characters. Some are now turning more to the Church. Our adult class that we started is taking more interest with these individuals. Such incidents as these give us much courage and hope, and we are going to carry on to the best of our abilities.

Cordially yours,

David Crawford



October 29, 1940

Rev. David Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

I appreciate your report and letter of October 19th. I wonder if you are trying to conduct adult Bible classes during some week-night. It seems to me that this ought to make an appeal to the people in Cordova.

You might conduct this Bible study in the various homes, going from one home to another, and this would not only provide Bible study but would also provide a means of social contact. You may work this thing through and if you think it is worthwhile, try it.

Remember that no problem you have is as big as the God you serve. So lean heavily on him and let him lead you. That is your answer.

Cordially yours,

EBK:TTL



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

Nov. 15, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I wish to make my monthly report and also thank you for your letter of Oct. 29th. I might say this much about that letter. The suggestion that you gave in that letter in regards to a Bible Study group during the week has been a problem that I have been working with since my coming to the field. I have always had hope of carrying on such a program and I still have hopes. However, if such a program is started, I am almost positive that those in attendance will not be the members of the Church who one would think would be attending such a meeting. It was this group that I approached long ago in regards to starting a mid-week service and they replied that such a program would be a failure and they definitely said that as far as their attending, it was out. Their cry is too much other things. The other things happen to be lodge and social parties. However, I am glad to say that I have been working with another group. They are composed chiefly of new comers into the community. They happen to be the nuclei of the Sunday School class that we started soon after coming to Cordova. A few of that class are showing some interest. We hope in the near future to give such a program of Bible Study a try. The number in attendance is going to be small, but those who will come, I think, will be individuals who will in the near future take more and more the responsibility in the Church. That is my hopes and prayers. Due to housing conditions, your second suggestion of meeting in the different homes, seems to be out. However, the front room of the manse is ample space for such a program and the group mentioned above feel as much at home here as they do in their own homes.

In making this report I thought it might be best to tell you in a general way the way some parts of our program are being carried out. I will speak first of the young adult Class. Upon our arrival we found the Sunday School with only classes for children. Even many of those in High School had stopped coming, thinking that S.S. was child's stuff. We also learned that there was a group of Young Married people within the town who seemed to be shunned from the town's society, because they did not care for the fast life that this society demanded. We tried to get their names. Then cards were sent out inviting them to S.S. On those cards we stated the fact that a new class was being organized. A good group responded and Mrs. Crawford was elected to be their teacher. The group have met in the manse and healthy discussions have arisen. Many times members of the class stay after S.S. hours and keep the discussion going. The class also felt that one evening a month could be set aside for a social. These have been informal and well attended. However, many times rather than playing games all evening, some of the group have gotten into healthy Bible discussions. These are having their effect. One young man has asked that regardless how small the class may become, don't give it up, because of the good



that he has received. Another young man who is single and rather lonely has stated the same thing. This young man also came to our home last week and wanted to talk to me. Certain problems have now arisen in his life, as he states it, because of what has come out in the Class and from the evening services. We came into my study and talked from 8 until 3 in the morning. He is at the point of dedicating his life to Christ, but there are certain battles that he has to fight out with himself. In the course of conversation I learned that he did not have a Bible. He is reading law and in hope of someday taking the bar exam. in Alaska. The boy is up against it financially and we have been doing as much as possible to help him. I didn't have a new Bible to give him, but I gave him an old one that I had and he was so thankful. He left the house promising me that he would read it, and I know he will. Our prayers are for his final dedication. Work here is going to be slow and each one must be almost hand picked, but I have faith that perservience will win in the end as long as we stay true to God.

We are having accute problems in the S.S. in regards to workers. The avaiable workers are small in number. We are running on a shortage of teachers. We need in the neighborhood of at least 4 teachers and someone to act as supertendent. The teachers are just not avaiable. Home conditions are such that those that we could use can't come. However, even with such a condition the attendance is way above the expcætation of all of us.

Our weakest point is in the High School group. That is small just because of the scarcity of pupils. This hinders an active Y.P.'s program. There happens to be a faction in this group between the Seniors and the Freshmen and a program seems dead. How we can overcome the problem is more than I can see at the present. I know that the evils of the town have caught a few and that makes the problem a serious one. One girl in particular knows that we know the truth and she is so ashamed of herself that she is afraid to meet either Mrs. Crawford or myself and will avoid us.

We have a point of great hope. There is a group that have not reached the High School as yet who are slowly becoming Church minded. Some very interesting tales can be told about the boys. I am their Sunday School teacher and the town has also elected me as Ass. Scout Master. Upon arrival we had 3 boys to S.S. This group has been slowly growing. Now we are getting from 12 to 14 each Sunday. It has not been action on my part that has brought the boys out, rather it is themselves. If I see a boy on the street who was not there the Sunday before, he almost varriable starts to tell me that he will be there next Sunday. This made me curious. I began to ask questions and I learned that the boys are beginning to threaten each other when they do not show up for S.S. What measures they are taking, I know not, but I do know that the boys are working on a system that is working. I might also say that at first the group was a constant head ache, but now they have settled down and are asking intelligent questions. Discussions are free and to the point.

I might say this much about the corresponding age in the girls. Here we have even a greater number. The one who is working with the girls seems very capable. Their group has remained rather steady since our coming, but they have always included almost all of the possibilities. If we can in some way errase the aparant distrust for the opposite sex in this age group, we will probably start a junior Y.P.'s society. If not, we will probably have to wait for a time until they become older.



This past Sunday (Armistice Day Sunday) we had a wonderful service. The American Legion suggested that they unite with us in having their service. I believe much good was accomplished from the service. I am enclosing a copy of the program that was used. The programs were printed at their expense.

In regards to Benevolent money, I might report to you that the Church is planning better support than in the past. I am sending in out collection of Children's Day on this same boat. That was an oversight on my part. The S.S. officers have voted to send their collection on Thanksgiving Sunday. We are also planning a service for Thanksgiving Day. We are going to use the material sent out by the National Mission board and the collection from that service will all be sent. The envelopes that you sent have been passed out and a special appeal was made that they be returned with sacrificial giving. Some have come in and that will help our amount. The trustees have not forgotten the verbal deal that they made with you and are planning to bring that up to date as soon as possible. Running expenses are high in this city and it is keeping the Trustees busy to keep up.

I might report for your information a few other things. I have tried to the best of my abilities to fit myself into this community. I have been made a member of the Chamber of Commerce and in that organization I have been working on different committees. I have also been voted into membership of our Firemen and I have tried to uphold the work of a faithful citizen. As said before I have been made Assistant Schut Master and most of the work of the troupe has been put upon me. I have also worked on committees of the P.T.A. and other civic affairs. Mrs. Crawford has also fitted herself into the work of the community. These things take much time from the pointed work of the Church, but in a general way they are doing much in helping the Church. For example, hardly a day goes by that someone fails to mention to me the value of my helping the town out this summer by my working on the dock. I firmly believe that we can work for Christ in other ways besides preaching the Gospel and I am doing my best in all ways possible.

As a general report of the past month's work, I will say that we seem to have picked up our planned program. The program is far from perfect, but a better understanding and a better feeling have arisen. As long as we have good weather our attendance will stay up, but weather is bound to play a big roll in our attendance. For example, The first Sunday of this report saw a beautiful morning and a good S.S. attendance. That afternoon and evening we had a wind and rain storm with so much violence that it was unsafe to venture out. Only those in cars and taxies ventured out.

Thank you for your suggestions and if from any of my reports or from elsewhere you find any suggestions, please send them. They are appreciated and will be used wherever possible.

Cordially yours,

David H. Crawford



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF  
CORDOVA, ALASKA

Armistice Day Program  
Sponsored By  
American Legion & Auxiliary



November 10, 1940

## Worship Program

Prelude

Doxology

Invocation followed by Lord's Prayer

Responsive Reading No 341

Hymn - No. 125 (All Standing)

Litany of Peace (Seated)

Leader:--Dearly beloved brethren, hear the words of Holy Scripture: Have ye not known? It is God that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us. Acquaint thyself now with him and be at peace; thereby good shall come unto thee. Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee. Peace I leave with you, saith the Lord Jesus, my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, abiding in divine unity and peace from everlasting to everlasting, grant us, amid the conflicts and perturbations of this transient world, the comfort of a perfect trust in Thee.  
People:--Bring our hearts unto peace, O God.

Leader:--From the evil power of selfishness and anger and greed, from the lusts and passions that beget strife in the soul and war among brethren, from avarice, vainglory and revengefulness, deliver us and save us.

People:--Bring our hearts unto Thy peace, O God.

Leader:--By the love of uprightness and fair dealing, by fidelity in our own duties and a due regard for the rights of others, by the spirit of brotherly kindness and the desire to give and to bless, uplift us, and quiet us, and make us strong.

People:--Bring our hearts unto Thy peace, O God.

Leader:--As Thou hast given to our country liberty and power, so guide Thy servant the President, and all others in authority, and all our people, and all other nations, into the ways that make for peace on earth and good will among men. Let the swords be beaten into ploughshares, and the spears into pruning-hooks, and let peace flow like a river.

People:--Save the world from war, O God.

Leader:--We beseech Thee to ally all civilities and strifes between different sorts and conditions of men, that the rich may not scorn the poor nor the poor hate the rich, that all unfairness may be redressed and all inequities abolished, and the peaceful labor of all promote the good of the commonwealth.

People:--Save the state from discord, O God.

Leader:--Especially for Thy holy Church universal we implore the blessing of peace; that all mistrust, hatred, and hostility between Christians may be removed; that all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth may learn to love and help one another in His service; that all unhappy divisions and strifes among the disciples of Christ may be done away; and that the many folds of faith may be embraced in one flock, following the Shepherd, even Jesus the Saviour of mankind.



Leader:--Save the Church from inward strife,  
O God.

Leader:--For all who are disquieted and afflicted  
by war within themselves, by the conflict of  
flesh and spirit, by the invasions of doubt,  
the tumults of a rebellious will, and the dark  
drivings of despair; for all the solitary and  
the restless; for the unhappy, we implore Thy  
compassion and Thy very present help in time  
of trouble.

People:--Save Thy Children from an anxious mind,  
O God.

Leader:--By the example of Thy dear Son Jesus,  
our Saviour, who learned obedience by the things  
which He suffered; by His courage and firmness  
and constancy in Thy work; by His submission  
to Thy will and the giving of His life to  
take away the sin of the world.

People:--Save us from a troubled heart, O God.

Leader:--In the coming of His kingdom, in the  
victory of faith, in the overcoming of evil  
with good, in the peace that passeth under-  
standing.

People:--Keep our souls at peace now and ever-  
more, O God.

Leader:--O God, who art the author of peace  
and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom  
standeth our eternal life, whose service is  
perfect freedom; defend us Thy humble servants  
in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely  
trusting in Thy defence, may not fear the  
power of any adversaries, through the might  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Everyone:--Amen.

Leader:--The benediction of the God of Peace,  
and Jesus the Prince of Peace, and the Holy  
Spirit of Peace, abide with each one of us for  
ever and ever.

Everyone:--Amen.

Hymn No. 127 (All Standing)

Scripture Lesson  
Romans 12

Evening Prayer

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Special Choir Selection

Silent Prayer

Sermon

"Enriching Spiritual Life"

Prayer

Hymn No. 178 (All Standing)

Benediction

Postlude

Announcements:--

We wish to announce that this program  
will move along un-announced. Please follow  
the order of service throughout the service.  
We also desire that all enter into the  
spirit of the service.

This service is being sponsored by the  
American Legion, their Auxilary, the Nat-  
ional Education Association. These organ-  
izations are cooperating with the National  
organization of the I.T.A., who are this  
coming week celebrating Education week.  
These organizations have suggested the  
Sermon topic for this evening's service.

The officers of the Ladies Aid wish to remind the different Circles that they are holding their regular meetings this coming Wednesday afternoon at 2:30.

Lafatto meet with Mrs. Burgen  
Good Neighbors meet with Mrs. Koch  
Peggy-Keith meet with Mrs. Ray Gross

We wish to call your attention to the fact that we are having our regular Sunday Services next Sunday.

Sunday School at 10:30 A.M.  
Young People's Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
Evening Service at 7:45 P.M.

We wish that all keep in mind the fact that Thanksgiving will be observed in Cordova on Nov. 21st. In connection with that day there will be a union Thanksgiving service in this Church at 10:30 A.M. All are cordially invited to attend.

"No peace was ever won from fate, by subterfuge or agreement; no peace is ever in store for any of us, but that which we shall win by victory over shame or sin,--victory over the sin that oppresses, as well as over that which corrupts." --Ruskin.



November 26, 1940

Rev. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

I read with a great deal of interest your letter of November 14. You have an uphill pull and I want to commend you in the fine and splendid way you are going about the work.

There is only one thing I want to caution you about and that is the matter of your own personal life. It is absolutely essential and necessary that you remain humble. I do not feel there is much danger of your being otherwise; however, your enthusiasm and determination might create the wrong impression at times. Please, therefore, guard yourself that no false impressions are created.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

Oct. 2, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
New York, N.Y..

Dear Dr.. King,

I received your letter of Sept. 21st this morning. I was very glad to get it and see that there were so many interested in our problems. That is encouraging to me, because I have been working and worrying about these problems.

By this time you have in your hands a letter prepared by the Board of Trustees and signed by Walter Hodge. That letter is under date of Sept. 21st. I think that that letter will set forth our problems very well..

However, in regards to our heating problems I should explain. Upon arriving I was told that the heating problem was a major problem. My Dad is a furnace man and I made much of my way in College by Plumbing. Therefore I was interested. I had been here one Sunday when the Furnace finally broke down.. The building was filled with smoke and could not be stopped. With the aid of another man I went to work on the furnace myself in order to save the Church money. We tore it down from top to bottom.. We got it partly back together, that is just enough to take the chill off the building, when Mrs. Taggart came to Cordova. In showing her the building I showed her the gym and she was forced to see the way the furnace was in at the time. It was a sorry mess with parts covering the floor. Since then I have finished the repairs, but they are just repairs. How long they will last no one can tell.. The repairs can only be temporary. When you wrote Mr. Hodge and asked that we give you a list of our urgent needs the matter of the furnace had to be included. Our line of discussion you can find in his report.. I worked with the men that made the estimates for all of the repairs and I know they are low. Now with your letter of Sept. 21st before me, I am in doubt of what to do. Do you desire that we do the work as we have included in our estimate? That is, relining the present furnace and making a change over from coal to oil which will go a ways in paying for itself in fuel saved.. Or do you desire that we take the other suggestion of replacing the total system with a single unit? If you desire we do the latter, the cost will probably exceed \$600. Please inform me which of the two suggestions we should do.

I believe I should lay stress on the same problem as did Mr. Hodge. Our big problem since I have patched the furnace is the roof. The present roof is beyond patching. We now use buckets and pans in the attic to prevent total damage to the interior and we hope and pray every wind that the roof doesn't start to shed its shingles. I should tell you about the feelings of the Trustees. When they were preparing the estimates sent you the 21st of Sept., they were in some ways afraid. Their estimates seemed so high. I offered the suggestion that we be frank about the matter and the men were frank. I might add to their report that there are many small matters under the item of repair that they did not mention. They are doing their best to take



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

care of them. I am doing all I can to help by doing a lot of the labor myself. This saves much because labor is high. There is much to do that I cannot do and have to call in others. However, I think the trustees need to be complimented on the way they have been working. Their source of income has been cut. We have fewer people in the city. Those that are here are not flushed with money. Many, Many of our active Church goers have moved to other towns for work, but still the trustees report that they are creeping toward the point ~~where~~ where we will be in the black and not red. When I came they had a note in the bank. That note has been slashed.

I wish that you would look up the Trustees report of Sept. 21st and then advise me on the action that we should take in regards to the furnace. I will wait action until that time of reply.

Cordially yours,

David H. Crawford

October 17, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. David Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear Mr. Crawford:

In response to your letter of October 2 I wish to say that Mr. Walter Hodge's letter of September 21 was received during Dr. King's absence from the office on a field trip. It was forwarded to Dr. King and a copy of his reply is attached.

No doubt you saw a copy of Mr. Hodge's letter of September 21 to Dr. King in which he outlined the suggestions and finally stated that the trustees recommended installation of the Diesel oil burner in the hot air furnace at an estimated cost of \$185. If it is your feeling and that of the trustees that this would be a temporary arrangement and it would be better to install a complete new unit, please secure estimates of the cost of installing the new unit and send them to us by airmail. Dr. King will return to the office next week and will then be able to give his final decision.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. King

HEW:DH

Enclosure



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

Dec. 16, 1940

Dr. E. B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I believe the outstanding occasion of this past month was our Thanksgiving Service. We followed the outline as sent to us by our Board. We used different members from the S.S. as suggested. Although this church has in the past observed Thanksgiving Day, many expressed there Thanks for the service and also in being able to give to the Board. This is saying much for some of these people. They have been use to money and now many many are having to pinch themselves. Many are working as hard as they can to keep the Church and some are realizing for the first time the true significance of the Church within their city. It is strange how people wake up to facts concerning God only when they begin to hit the bottom of their own resources.

During this past month we received cheering word. Money has been appropriated to the CAA and a part of that money is to come into Cordova to build a landing field here. When this work is to begin and to what extent, we do not know, but we think that this will be of some help to our city.

During this past month we (that is the city) met with the Flu. Our program was much curtailed by this. The health officer stopped the public School our S.S. and Y.P. and told us to stop all practicing for our Christmas program. Mrs. Crawford and myself fell to the Flu, but we are feeling much better now. At present we are working toward Christmas with high hopes. The Choir is working on a number to give and the Children are working toward their program.

On a whole this past month has been a general mix-up. That is with its sickness and programs and preparations, but on the whole I have felt a much better feeling among the people. Our numbers have been curtailed, but weather has much to play. (High winds and heavy rain fall.)

I wish to say in closing, I thank you for your suggestion of last letter and I hope you continue to guide as you see fit. My constant prayer is for the best for the glory of God and If I am doing something that could be changed and done better in another way, I am glad to change and do all that I can, be that what ever it may be.

Cordially yours,

David H. Crawford

January 21, 1941

Rev. Mr. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

I am glad your work is showing encouraging signs and I do believe you are the man for the place.

We have been having a siege of the flu in the States, so Alaska has not been favored. I am glad you and Mrs. Crawford both have gotten on top and are able to carry on.

Again let me call your attention to the weekday Bible study group. I still feel that you have the opportunity of carrying out such a program. I suggest you meet in the homes and spend one evening in Bible study. I trust you will be able to inaugurate this program and give it a fair trial.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH



January 22, 1941

Rev. Mr. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

I note what you say in your letter of January 6 relative to writing to churches for help for your young people this summer.

I must caution you against any such procedure. If you follow this course you will bring us into some very serious and dangerous difficulties. I am sorry this is the case, but the way the organization is set up, this policy could not be followed at all. If you have some friends or churches that could give you help over and above any offerings or donations they might make to National Missions, then that would be a little different.

Relative to the Sunday school material, I suggest you communicate with Cabbage in Anchorage, or Armstrong in Fairbanks, and see whether or not the material you mention could be used with the soldiers.

I am glad to hear that Cordova is getting a Coast Guard boat. That will be some help to you.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

Feb. 15, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

In reporting for last month I must report the extra fine services of Presbytery. It was an enriching experience to myself and also for the members of my Church. The Installation services and the other contacts that the people had with the other members of Presbytery were stimulating toward a better feeling towards the Church.

On the other hand our Coast Guard boat was called back for some reason just after plans had been laid to be able to include them in all of our Church activities. They were a fine group of men and some were very helpful to us in carrying out our program.

Work is moving along on a rather even keel and we hope that it stays this way. Although I won't be able to report in this years figure an increase of membership, there will be an increase at the Easter season.

We are meeting one very grave problem at the present time. I am about to loose two of my best S.S. teachers and it is extremely hard to find the same. As yet I have no solution for this problem, but I hope to have it worked out in a week or two. (I might just add that health measures are causing this change and both would like to stay and work but they can't.)

In regards to your suggestion about Bible Study, I have given much thought about the suggestion and I hope to be able to report in the near future the success of such a program.

Sincerely yours,

*David H. Crawford*



March 3, 1941

Rev. Mr. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

Thank you for your good letter of February 15th. I am glad to know that the meeting of Presbytery was such an inspiration. It is always a help I think to have these outside contacts and I know you men in Alaska appreciate it far more than we do here in the States. I am going to look forward to any developments that are made there in promoting the Bible study plan.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

3KA

March 5, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. David H. Crawford  
Cordova  
Alaska

Dear Crawford:

I need to have a fresh appraisal of our work at Cordova. Will you, therefore, carefully and thoughtfully prepare me such an appraisal and sent it to me immediately? In order to help you give me the information that I want, I am suggesting the following items:

1. State the population of your community, giving the white and native population. Give a brief description of the community.
2. Name the other churches or religious forces that are serving in your community, giving the strength of these forces.
3. Describe our church property. Who holds the title? Give the cost of construction and the actual value. State the condition of repair.
4. Describe your church program. Give the membership and attendance at worship service, Sunday School, young people's organization and midweek service.
5. In your opinion what is the future for our church in your community? Give reasons for your opinion.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

ALASKA



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

April 22, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

In summing up the work of the past three months, I believe the highest peak of our Church life was reached on Easter Sunday. In fact our Holy week services coupled with the Easter services is the highest point we have reached since my coming to Alaska. I believe the one factor that made the services seem so high was the fact that three people, who are no longer young people and who have never as yet joined any Church came of their own free will and gave reasons very definitely why they felt they should join the Church. Then they asked to be admitted into the Church. It was indeed gratifying. In the same manner two of the young couples of the town came and asked that I write for their letters. I did and they too were received into our fellowship. Expressions such as these give one hope and strength to carry on and on and on regardless of all obstacles. Therefore, I wish to report our progress.

On the other hand I am going to have to report that at present I am not going to be able to carry out your suggestion in regards to mid week services. I have been trying to get one started, but I can't. I am not going to give up hope in the idea, and I hope to be able to report someday that such a program is being carried out.

Sincerely yours,

*David Crawford*

# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

May 24, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

In reporting for this past month one must say that everything has been moving along as well as can be expected considering. I add the last word because Cordova is at the present time facing a grave labor problem. Instead of the great multitude of workers coming up from the outside there has only been about half of the needed number. It seems as though the workers have received work outside and care not for coming to Alaska for just the summer as they have previously done. This means that every one pitches in and works. The fish and the canneries have no respect for Sunday's and so in like manner the Church and S.S. suffer in attendance. My congregation at the present time extends from Cape St. Elias to Bristol Bay. And this is the greatest scattering that Cordova has ever had. For instance, out of about 100 ~~xx~~ children who can come and do come to S.S. there is not one left available for S.S. ~~under~~ over 16 years of age. From the age group of 10 to 16 there ~~are~~ are only about 4 who are not taking care of smaller children while their mothers are working. There ~~are~~ are only about 25 women left in town who are not already employed and a half of these will be employed if any great run takes place. Thus you can appreciate our problems. We are going to keep the S.S. and the church open, but we have already been forced to abandon the young People's work. We have been planning for months a daily vacation Bible School and ~~we~~ still plan to have that in order to give something to these smaller children. Here we are hampered with teachers. Outside of Mrs. Crawford and myself we have but one teacher who is not working and there is a possibility that she will work, but still we plan to carry on. We know that this is just a short seasonal problem and we are already planning for the church when this rush is over.

We have been here almost a year now and we are still as happy in our work as when we started. God has been good to us and our work.

Sincerely yours,

David H. Crawford



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

June 6, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

*#2.50*

You spoke to me in regards to books before my coming to Alaska. You said, "If you want to buy any books write to you and you would see that I received them." I have not as yet accepted your offer, because I thought that you would be so busy, but now I am anxious that I receive this one book or one that could be used in it's place. I am to have charge of recreation at Camp this summer and I find my present books are too limited. I have seen the book "Good times for All times" by Nina Lamkin and I like the book. I do not find it listed in any of my catalogues. But I know that it was published by Samuel French Co. 25 W 45th St. New York City. I am not sure of the cost so I am enclosing a check for \$4.50.. If this doesn't cover the cost let me know and I will remit the difference. If there happens to be a balance, use it up in other similar reading matter or good devotional books.

Thanking you for your trouble I remain.

Sincerely yours,

*David H. Crawford*

*Tracts  
\$4.50  
Devotional Bks.  
Primer etc.  
4/6/41*

June 9, 1941

Rev. Mr. David M. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear Brother Crawford:

Your letter of May 24th explaining the unusual situation that is now existing in Cordova is certainly a discouraging thing for you. However, we do not always have the sunshine and perhaps it is better that we do not. If the discouraging things did not bob up and if the difficulties were not faced then I am quite sure that our work would never progress. I am glad that you are accepting this discouraging outlook in the optimistic fashion.

Cordially yours,

EBK:B

ALASKA



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

June 23, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y..

Dear Dr. King,

One has little to report this month save for a continuation of what was said in my last report. The Church program has been forced to a short program and one with small numbers due to the great exodus of people for the summer. By that I mean that the people are scattered and working in the canneries and fishing. Their working program come at the time of the Church program and they have to make a living when they can. The fish are no respectors of Sunday.

However, I might report one very interesting trip that I took this past month. You will find it on my report. I went out for two days with the man on parole of the fishing flats. This trip was interesting from the standpoint that I was able to make contact with some 20 different fishermen. We traveled nearly 150 miles in the course of the two days that we were out. These short calls that one is sometimes able to make seem to mean so much to these men. I have tried to estimate the value, but words are entirely too inadequate. Perhaps the greatest value lies in the fact that the men in these desolate places get to understand that some one thinks about their soul's welfare and on the other hand the worker gets the uplift by knowing that what he says and does is not all wasted effort. As long as there is a spark it is worth flaming.

I believe I should make some report now for the past year, for it was during this past month that we celebrated our arrival into Alaska. This past year has been one of the greatest years in our lives. It is second only to the year that I gave myself into the hands of God and then promised Him that I would enter into his ministry. It has been one of great growth for me. I have felt a great mellowing of my own personal relationship with God. I have faced greater temptations and bigger problems this past year, but God has been so good. He has helped and he has given strength. And so whatever we have done and whatever may be the results of our past ~~year~~ year's work He deserves all the credit. Our prayers are for the future, with many souls won into the kingdom and united under the great Church of Christ's. Our faith, our enthusiasm and our goal is far stronger and far greater now than it was last year and God willing we hope to continue to be His servants doing His will.

Sincerely yours,

David H. Crawford



July 7, 1941

Rev. Mr. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear Crawford:

We have requested the book, *GOOD TIMES FOR ALL TIMES*,  
be sent to you from the publisher and in addition, we are placing  
an order for Toyohiko Kagawa's latest book, *BEHOLD THE MAN*.

I think you will find this book of Kagawa's most  
interesting and certainly very stimulating.

Cordially yours,

EBK:TTL



July 8, 1941

Air Mail

Rev. Mr. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

I was very happy to receive your letter of June twenty-third and rejoiced especially in your last paragraph. You are in a very difficult field. You have some rather hard problems to face, and certainly it is not easy to find the answers.

I am glad that the work has had a good effect on your life and in your faith.

Cordially yours,

EBK:HB



# First Presbyterian Church

DAVID H. CRAWFORD, Minister

Cordova, Alaska

July 28, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

Between a tragedy that visited our city and our Bible School I have been kept so busy that the sending of this report has been delayed. A young boy of the city was drowned while out on a picnic. Some of us gave part of our time to the patrolling of the beach for the body.

At last we were able to carry on our plans. We have had our Bible School and it was a big success. We had planned this school for the first two weeks of June. At the last min. we canceled our plans because of the great exodus of children to the clam beaches. We then laid plans of the first two weeks of July and again we felt it better to hold off. Finally on the 14th of July we opened the Bible school and weather was against us. The worse storms of the summer came upon us. One day we were forced (due to safety of the children) to abandon Bible School for that day. The number who attended were few in comparison with our winter number, but we had most of the children who are in town at the present time. We graduated 23 at our commencement service. The children had studied well and were a credit to our efforts.

The past month has certainly been full. Miss Emma Stauffer stopped off with us for a few days at the beginning of the month and the visit was refreshing. Then a week ago Sat. the Sunday School Times' tour stopped. We had a service in the church for them and then a long visit with Rev. Waggoner and Mr. Lane. These visits are so helpful and so much appreciated.

I made two very interesting trips this past month. I am the scout master and I had planned a trip with the boys on one of the government boats. I never dreamed of the possibility of being able to make some out of the way calls that should be made, but while on that trip I was able to make 8 visits that I believe are going to bring their fruits. The other trip I took primarily as a little vacation. I went with the Bureau of Fisheries. Again I never dreamed of the possibility of calls, but I was able while on the trip to make 9 different calls.

To report in general one must say that everything is moving along even better than can be expected under the circumstances. As I have reported before, the town is spread out, Workers are scarce, Jobs are plenty and everything is running on Sunday.

Sincerely yours,

David Crawford



August 12, 1941

Rev. David H. Crawford  
Cordova, Alaska

Dear David:

Thank you for your interesting letter of July 28th with the description of the Bible school that you were able to carry on. I am happy in the report.

I hope that it will be possible for me to see you while I am in the Territory this next month.

Cordially yours,

EBK:TTL

ALASKA